

*AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS*

Figure 3 is amended to include a prior art label as requested by the Examiner.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s)

*REMARKS/ARGUMENTS*

In response to the Official Action mailed May 10, 2005, Applicants amend their application and request reconsideration. In this Amendment, no claims are added or canceled so that claims 1-12 remain pending. No new matter has been added.

In response to the Examiner's request, a prior art label is added to Figure 3.

Claim 1 is amended to clarify that the composite display part is displayed to a user as part of a user interface designed by the user interface designing apparatus. This amendment is supported, for example, by lines 1-6 of page 6 of the patent application.

Claims 1-12 were rejected as unpatentable over SmartDraw.com ("SmartDraw UML: How to Draw UML Diagrams," hereinafter Smartdraw) in view of Apfelbaum et al. (US Patent No. 6,853,963, hereinafter Apfelbaum). That rejection is respectfully traversed.

The combination of Smartdraw and Apfelbaum fails to teach or suggest every limitation of claim 1. The Official Action asserts that Smartdraw teaches *a state set editing means for adding/deleting states of a composite display part having a plurality of states*. The state set editing means disclosed in Smartdraw edits the states of a class in an object-oriented programming language (see page 16 of Smartdraw). By contrast, the present invention claims a state set editing means that adds and deletes states of a composite display part. The states and behavior of a graphic such as the composite display part are fundamentally different from the states and behavior of an object-oriented programming language. The problems in designing such a state set are likewise different.

Furthermore, the present invention claims that the composite display part is *displayed to a user as part of a user interface*. Because Smartdraw discloses an object class where the present invention claims a composite display part, Smartdraw clearly fails to teach or suggest this limitation. Indeed, a class of an object-oriented programming language is not displayed as part of a user interface. Moreover, Smartdraw simply fails to teach or suggest *a user interface designed by a user interface designing apparatus*. Instead, Smartdraw discloses a UML state diagram designed by UML state diagram designing software.

Although the Official Action does not allege to the contrary, Applicants note for the record that Apfelbaum also fails to teach or suggest a state set editing means for adding/deleting states of a composite display part having a plurality of states, wherein the composite display part is displayed to a user as part of a user interface designed by the user

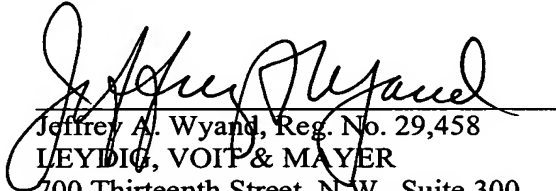
interface designing apparatus. Accordingly, the combination of Smartdraw and Apfelbaum fails to teach or suggest every limitation of claim 1.

In addition, Apfelbaum does not really pertain to a user display interface, as in the invention, in which graphical display parts are shown on a display. Rather, in Apfelbaum the user interface is in the form of a table including rows and columns. A user designates rows to select paths through states and transitions of a finite state machine. Thus, even if modified by Smartdraw, the result cannot suggest claim 1.

Regarding claims 2-12, the rejection of these claims relies on the assertion that the combination of Smartdraw and Apfelbaum teaches or suggests every limitation of claim 1. As previously explained, that assertion is erroneous. Thus, the combination of Smartdraw and Apfelbaum fails to teach every limitation of claims 2-12. Accordingly, *prima facie* obviousness has not been established, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, as well as prompt allowance of the pending claims, are appropriate and earnestly solicited.

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